

Appl. No. 10/725,697 Attorney Docket No.:N1280-00320 (TSMC2003-1469)
Amdt. dated 08/02/2006
Response to Office Action of May 5, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-53 were previously pending in this application with claims 1-28 and 40-53 having been previously withdrawn from consideration. Claims 30-31 and 34-39 were objected-to and claims 29, 32 and 33 rejected in the subject Office action.

5 Claims 1-28, 30-31, 33-34 and 40-53 are being cancelled in this paper; claims 29, 32, 35 and 37 are being amended herein; and claims 54-61 are newly added. Based on the Examiner's comments with respect to allowable subject matter, it is believed that each of pending claims 29, 32, 35-39 and 54-61 is in condition for allowance.

10 In paragraph 4 of the subject Office Action, it was indicated that claims 30, 31 and 34-39 were objected-to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 30 and 31 each had originally depended from independent base claim 29 and the features of claims 30 and 31 have each been added, in the alternative, to independent claim 29.
15 Amended independent claim 29 is therefore in allowable form.

Original claim 34 had depended from claim 32 which, in turn, depended from independent claim 29. The features of these three claims have been combined in amended claim 32 which is now an independent claim and thusly in allowable form.

20 Claim 35 has now been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of its base claim (original claim 29) and is therefore also in allowable form. Claim 37 has been amended for consistency with the cancellation of claim 33.

25 Claims 54-57 have been added to depend from newly independent claim 32 and claims 58-61 have been amended to depend from newly independent claim 35. The group of claims 54-57 and the group of claims 58-61 are essentially identical and also identical to the group of claims 36-39. These new claims have been added to add these claim limitations, by way of dependency, to new independent claims 32 and 35. Each of

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the newly added claims is in allowable form because each depends from an allowable independent claim.

Claims 29, 32 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in the subject Office Action but the rejection of claims 29 and 32 are obviated due to the amendments described above in conjunction with the discussion of the allowable subject matter. Claim 33 has been cancelled.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, each of pending claims 29, 32, 35-39 and 54-61 is in allowable form and the application in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully and expeditiously requested.

The Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any excess payment that may be associated with this communication to Deposit Account 04-1679.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 2, 2006


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